

Hi Everyone!

Sunday, April 22 was a good day . . .

6:00 (a.m.): I check the laptop computer and discover that it won't drive the projector. It takes 45 minutes to get it to work.

7:02: The phone rings. Someone from the retreat for people struggling with alcohol (I did the Bible teaching there about 2 months ago) calls to tell me that their son had received Christ the day before. I'm happy for them but not sure why they call at 7 am.

8:10: Load the car with all the stuff for the church service.

8:45: Sharon, Markus, and I join Georg, Michi, and Albert at the auditorium we rent to begin setting up the stuff for the worship service.

8:48: Simon and Magdi show up to help. The men work on setting up the chairs, sound equipment, etc. while the women get the serving tables, cake, and drinks ready.

9:05: Everything is set up. (new record)

9:10: The rest of the worship team comes and sets up their stuff.

9:20: I start a brief warmup with the worship team. Georg's "Creedence Clearwater Revival" imitation makes everyone laugh. (Not exactly worship music, but it is funny.)

9:35: After the worship warmup the team meets to pray. We pray especially for Hannes who is preaching today for the first time ever and is having problems with a back injury that he got at work.

9:50: Finish praying and go out again into the main auditorium. Simon and Magdi are getting more chairs because we didn't have enough set up for the people.

10:00: Start the worship service.

10:15: Hannes starts preaching. We can hear the kids in the Sunday School class singing.

10:27: Hannes is done preaching (This is a good sermon.)

10:31: Arndt and Karin walk in. (They had been on a business trip to Helsinki, Finland and left at 4 am to try to get back for church. They miss the beginning by 31 minutes.)

10:59: The worship service is over.

11:12: A man who was visiting with his family tells me how much he learned from the sermon. This man has been to 2 other worship services, has not chosen to receive Christ yet, and is getting a lot of static from his extended family about his involvement with our "cult."

11:17: The rhubarb cake that Sharon made is already gone.

11:32: Martin, one of our leaders, is engaged in an extended conversation with F., a man from the Middle East who is attending our service for the first time. Martin invites this man to attend his home Bible study.

11:42: I set up appointments with Markus L. and Sonja in order to talk about the principles that drive how we structure our worship services. Both of them will be leading services this summer.

11:47: The high school age students are over in the corner with their cake, laughing.

11:49: Magdi, who has known the Lord about 2 months, tells me that she did some extra Bible reading after attending our first session on spiritual gifts last week. She tells me what she learned, and I ask her to tell the whole group what she discovered at the next session. She lights up like a Christmas tree.

12:18: We start taking stuff down.

12:43: Sharon and I are last ones to leave the room.

1:10: The burgers finally go on the grill.

1:22: Part of one burger falls on the ground and the dogs get it. (Everyone had a good day.)

2:25: Sharon and I fall asleep in the lawn chairs on the terrace.

3:30: The phone rings. Several other women who were at the worship service want the rhubarb cake recipe. Sharon goes to the computer and types it out.

The rest of the day included playing Speedminton at the city park for a while, watching some tv, reading email, talking with Sarah in the US, and Markus beating both Sharon and me in Rook (with the help of the "dummy hand").

It was a good day.

Thanks for your prayers and interest,

Paul